

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES JOINS FORCES WITH THREE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE
TRAINING TO PHYSICIANS****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SACRAMENTO -- The State Department of Developmental Services has announced a new partnership with UC Medical Schools to train physicians on healthcare for persons with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and other neurologically disabling conditions. The Department has initiated three \$100,000 contracts with University of California, Davis, University of California, Los Angeles, and University of California, San Diego, Medical Schools.

"Physicians need more information regarding the health issues of this complex population," said Cliff Allenby, Director of the Department. "Although each university is taking a different approach, all are taking steps toward improving the expertise of physicians who serve persons with developmental disabilities."

The training will include the following:

- The University of California, Davis, School of Medicine will conduct six regional training seminars in Sacramento, Fresno, Redding/Eureka, Stockton/Modesto, Salinas/Monterey, and the San Francisco Bay Area. The training will focus on healthcare issues as determined by each local region's needs.
- The University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine will establish multiple resources for physicians seeking training regarding various developmental disabilities, including the development of a web site on developmental disabilities. Mini-fellowships will be created for physicians to provide specialized training in the area of developmental disabilities. In an attempt to reach large numbers of physicians, lectures and workshops focusing on developmental disabilities will be incorporated into the school's annual Continuing Medical Education Programs.
- The University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine will implement curriculum focusing on developmental disabilities into courses required of all medical students in years one through three of medical school. Training for faculty members teaching the new material will also occur.

Physicians are now seeing more patients with developmental disabilities within managed care plans. As physicians become more familiar with such complex conditions, they can provide improved health services to this population.

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"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"